

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 22, 2010

7:00 PM

Council Committee Rooms

Public Service & Safety

*John McAlister, Chair
Shane Ewald*

Members Present: John McAlister and Shane W. Ewald

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Chief Dennis Murphy, Lt. Jeff Spence, Terry Emery, Dottie Franey, Karl Wetherholt, Mike Andrako, Gen. Jim Williams, Grant Reveal, Angel Mumma, Tom Kneeland; Press.

ISSUES - From Chief of Police:

Code Change - Chapter 721

Lt. Spence said this deals with solicitors; have a series of changes throughout the code section; will review the major changes; 721.04 change 9:00 p.m. to 30 minutes before sunset; get a lot of complaints about people knocking on doors after dark; 721.05 adding a simplified fee of \$50 for one year permit, and the running of a WebCheck; currently no mechanism in code that gives the ability to screen solicitors; would require each employee having a background check/WebCheck and receiving a certificate; anyone who drives the car, or goes door to door and the one applying for the permit would require a certificate completed within 30 days of the permit application; also firming up the language so the Chief can revoke or deny a permit if they have criminal convictions in their backgrounds. Spence said this does not apply to charitable organizations; WebCheck would run fingerprints through state and national data base.

Ewald asked how long this process will take, and Spence said now it takes about a week, but this new system would actually be faster.

There was discussion about groups the City has had trouble with; Spence said it is not with the reputable companies that go door to door, it is with the ones selling magazines, Kirby vacuums or wanting to do work for you; some don't know the difference between Columbus and Gahanna and do not have a permit for Gahanna; this does not apply to people who just want to drop off flyers. In response to question Spence said we do operate WebCheck at the PD on Thursdays; \$56 charge.

McAlister said I come to your door; you already have information on me; you have my name for permit; I upset a resident and they call you; what more do you need? Chief Murphy said many times groups are dropped off in Gahanna that do not have permits; we approach them and they are not even from the state of Ohio and have no IDs; people do lie to us; officers need to know who they are dealing with; we have found people with warrants and sexual predators working for solicitors; criminals scoping out houses to rob them; did have several robberies a few years back; one person was actually wanted for murder in another state; this is what it boils down to. Spence said it is not unusual for suburbs to have WebCheck for solicitors; most do; several years ago we had someone posing as a Kirby vacuum salesman; jewelry was stolen at two residences; a person who was on parole in Kansas was identified as the suspect. Ewald said just another hoop to jump through to help protect the safety of our residences.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; no need to come back; 2nd Reading, Consent.

FLETF Purchase - SQL Server

Reveal said he and Spence discussed this and feel it is best to purchase a SQL server for the purpose of consolidating recently purchased software applications on a dedicated

server; more of a housekeeping issue; device run multiple data bases. Kneeland said this makes sense; will save money in the future.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; no need to come back; 2nd Reading, Consent.

FLETF Purchase - Polygraph Training

Spence said we are asking for funds to send a police officer for certified polygraph examiner training; is available in West Chester, Ohio; first time it has been available in Ohio in several years; is an 8 week course; \$5,000 is the course fee and \$6,500 for lodging; starts in June and runs thru July; we do have polygraph equipment; having an examiner in house will help in investigation process; will speed things up and save the City money in the long run.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; no need to come back; 2nd reading, Consent.

ISSUES - From Director of Emergency Management:

Code Change - Section 131.01, Emergency Powers

Moved to Finance Committee.

ISSUES - From City Engineer:

TechCenter Drive West - Engineering Scope Change

Moved to Finance Committee.

I-270 Ramp Modifications - SIB Loan Repayment

Wetherholt said he mentioned this in the February 3rd report; ODOT will bid this project March 26th; this was to cover the local match for the project, but the base bid is zero due to the availability of federal funding; after we got that loan a couple of things happened; federal money was available this year and stimulus money; brought our local match down to zero; still have the SIB loan and have to pay it, \$10,000; need supplemental. McAlister asked what SIB stood for. Wetherholt said State Infrastructure Bank; is a nice program for when federal funds are not available to help get a project going. McAlister asked if this is stimulus money and Wetherholt said yes. McAlister said he is going to call it what it is; deficit spending money; said this is like a bridge loan. Wetherholt said exactly.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; no need to come back; 2nd Reading, Consent.

Ewald asked how things were going with the Jefferson Elementary intersection safety issue. Andrako said he has a traffic engineer meeting him at the intersection in the morning to see it in action before we make any kind of decision.

McAlister said the abutments off of Olde Ridenour have trees growing out of the stones; hate to see it destroyed. Emery said we are monitoring this; will look at again.

Donna L. Jernigan, MMC, Sr. Deputy Clerk of Council